

the least, that the circumstances attending the present holding and control of that paper should be investigated, as that the circumstances to which attention has been called should be investigated, and we venture to think that if any investigation of that kind is desired, it should not stop short of the present deal under which 'La Presse' newspaper is held and controlled by certain political interests in this country, if I am not thoroughly mistaken.

Coming to the appointment of new senators, an interesting theory was propounded in days gone by that no man should be appointed from the ranks of this House to the Senate or to any office of emolument under the Crown, within two years of his ceasing to hold a seat in this House. Since the close of the last session we have had four gentlemen, the hon. member for Colchester, the hon. member for Centre York, the hon. senior member for the city of Ottawa and the hon. member for Brockville appointed to positions: the first named to the judicial bench of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, and the last three to the Senate. I observe that these three gentlemen who have gone to the Senate resigned their seats in this House, and I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the resignation of each of these gentlemen was for the purpose of his appointment to the Senate? Would my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) favour me with a reply to that at this moment?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am not aware that these gentlemen have resigned; they were appointed to the Senate without any reference to their resignation.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I shall refresh my recollection. The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) seems strangely unaware of what goes on in his government. I quote from 'Hansard':

Of Daniel Derbyshire, Esq., member for the Electoral District of Brockville, by resignation.

Of Frederick A. Laurence, Esq., member for the Electoral District of Colchester, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown, to wit: Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Of Honourable Napoléon Antoine Belcourt, member for the Electoral District of Ottawa, by resignation.

Of Archibald Campbell, Esq., member for the Electoral District of the Centre Riding of the County of York, Ontario, by resignation.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I did not say that the gentlemen had not resigned. I said that their appointment had been made without any reference at all to their resignation.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) I think knows as well as every other member of this House that that is not an answer to my question. He must have known per-

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

fectly well that these gentleman had resigned in order that they might be appointed to the Senate. Does any one suppose for one moment that the late member for Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt) resigned his seat for Ottawa without thoroughly understanding that he was to be appointed to the Senate? Does any one suppose for one moment that the late hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) resigned his seat in this House without its being thoroughly understood that he was going to the Senate? And last, but not least, does any one suppose that the late hon. member for Brockville (Mr. Derbyshire) resigned his seat without a thorough understanding that he was to go to the Senate? I do not think there will be much doubt on that score—and this is the way in which my hon. friends on the other side of the House are carrying out that promise made, not only on every husting in the country, but laid down as one of the planks of their Ottawa platform, that their first duty after obtaining power would be to carry out that long promised and long delayed reform of the Senate of Canada.

I observe that my hon. friend who seconded the address (Mr. Lanctot) has called attention to a strange omission in the speech from the Throne, in that there is no mention of the celebrated all-red line between Canada and Great Britain and between Canada and Australia, which was heralded with so much acclaim by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) on his return from the mother country. There is not one word in the speech from the Throne, so far as I have been able to gather, with regard to that project, and I think it is only due to us that the Prime Minister should inform the House and the country as to the present position of that grand scheme. Why, after having heralded it, as he did, in the city of Quebec, have we not a word in regard to it in the speech from the Throne?

But we have something in the speech from the Throne with regard to the treaty with France, and I join most heartily in what was so eloquently said by the hon. gentleman who seconded the address (Mr. Lanctot) with regard to the good relations between Great Britain and France, and in the hope that these good relations may always continue. I sincerely trust that the operation of this treaty, which at present we cannot very well understand without more investigation, may be such as to increase and develop the commercial relations between France and Canada. But there are one or two items in the proposed remission of duties to France which call for a little attention, and I would like to ask whether these have been inserted at the special instance of my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Sydney Fisher). The Liberal party had a prohibition plank in its platform in 1893, which was supposed to have been inserted on behalf of and at the instance of my hon. friend the Min-